

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, this week, I will reintroduce a resolution recognizing September as National Childhood Obesity Awareness Month. September marks an opportunity for Congress to raise awareness of the issue while also discussing ways we can engage our families and communities on how best to curb this unhealthy trend.

Over the past three decades, childhood obesity rates in the United States have tripled. Today, nearly one in three children are overweight or obese. These numbers are even higher in minority communities, where nearly 40 percent of African American and Hispanic children are overweight. Children today experience a different lifestyle from 30 years ago, when kids ate less and exercised more.

Many groups have stepped up to the plate to improve nutrition and physical activity for our children. Community partners like the Campaign to End Obesity, Cheer for a Healthier America, YWCA, and HealthCorps have taken the charge to achieve the healthiest lives we can give them.

Let us use the month of September to elevate the issue of childhood obesity and recognize our community partners.

VERIFICATION OF OBAMACARE SUBSIDIES

(Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, after 3½ years, the Obama administration has failed to make its hallmark legislation, ObamaCare, work. Instead, it has delayed or waived key portions, including the so-called “verification system.” This was ObamaCare’s way of ensuring folks who received Federal assistance to buy health insurance met the criteria. Buried within 600 pages of red tape, the administration said it will no longer verify the information provided by individuals, but simply rely on self-reporting.

Mr. Speaker, this opens a wide door to further fraud and abuse in our health care system. This fraud could amount to \$250 billion in taxpayer-funded payments. That’s no pocket change.

That’s why I urge my colleagues to support a commonsense bill, H.R. 2775, No Subsidies Without Verification Act, to protect taxpayer dollars and further chip away at this unworkable law. The American people want, need, and deserve better.

FIXING THE WAR POWER AUTHORITY

(Mr. DEFAZIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, the President has come to Congress, as he should, to ask authority for a discre-

tionary military action. The sad fact is he doesn’t have to because of a defective law passed by Congress in reaction to Nixon’s bombing of Cambodia in 1973. The bill that Congress passed is a shadow of our constitutional authority regarding war and peace.

This President has come to us. That’s good. The result is not yet known. It has already resulted perhaps in a diplomatic breakthrough. That is also good. But in the future we need to make certain that each and every President comes to us when we’re not defending against immediate interests of the United States or against imminent or real attack of our troops or our citizens.

So I’ll be reintroducing legislation to fix the war power authority. In the future, in circumstances such as this, it will require that the President come to the Congress before launching a discretionary military action. We must fix this law. This is a good precedent this President has set. Let’s make it the law of the United States of America.

OPPOSE MILITARY ACTION IN SYRIA

(Mr. MARCHANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge the President and my colleagues to oppose any U.S. military action in Syria. Based on the evidence given to Congress, I have serious reservations about authorizing the use of military force in another Middle Eastern country. The President has not convinced me that we have vital national security interests at stake in Syria or a clear military objective. There are far too many unanswered questions and unclear objectives.

My constituents in the 24th District of Texas are deeply skeptical about the value of military intervention in Syria. I fully agree with their concerns. On behalf of my constituents and many concerned Americans, I respectfully urge my colleagues to weigh the evidence fully and to be realistic about what can be achieved in military intervention. Let us vote for what’s best for the United States. Keep the U.S. military out of Syria.

THE ALTERNATIVE PLAN IN SYRIA

(Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend the Obama administration for its willingness to consider a new alternative proposal for dealing with Syria. The proposal is to hand over all—and I stress all—of Syria’s chemical weapons under the oversight of the international community and to safely and verifiably destroy them. This could actually remove those weapons from the battlefield and peacefully prevent

the further use of them against the people of Syria or her neighbors. This idea has gained support from U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki Moon, as well as Russia and France.

Mr. Speaker, this proposal needs to be vigorously pursued. The Syrian regime’s attack against its own people using poisonous gas is morally reprehensible. If this plan is successful, it could produce an outcome that everyone desires: preventing the Assad regime from using chemical weapons.

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WILL THE SENATE AND THE PRESIDENT ACT TO GET AMERICANS WORKING AGAIN?

(Mr. HULTGREN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, the American people are still struggling with a shaky economy. During the August district work period, the number one question I heard from my constituents was: Where are the jobs?

Last week we saw the unemployment rate in August drop to 7.3 percent, but for all the wrong reasons. People didn’t find jobs; they stopped looking for them altogether. Between July and August, that amounted to more than 300,000 people.

A smaller percentage of Americans is working or looking for work than at any time in the past 35 years. It is so discouraging to be told the recession is over, but then you look and you look but you can’t find a job.

Employers around my district tell me the best stimulus for hiring is to reduce government regulations, cut taxes, simplify the Tax Code, and push for smaller government. Yet, what do they see ahead? More uncertainty as States race to meet the October 1 deadline to set up expensive and confusing ObamaCare exchanges. No wonder businesses aren’t hiring; the “Unaffordable Care Act” doesn’t give them the confidence that they need to be able to afford hiring new employees.

Let’s restore their confidence to hire and train new workers. The House has passed numerous jobs bills to reduce regulations on businesses. Let’s have the Senate act.

SYRIA

(Mr. VARGAS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on Syria.

The real issue is that the Assad regime gassed more than 426 children and their parents. Those who perished died a horrific, merciless, and completely unnecessary death. We must come together and act with the President to create a credible threat of force and, thereby, deter the future use of chemical weapons.

Now, I am somewhat optimistic that, as recently reported, Syria is willing to place its chemical weapons under international control. This solution could possibly bring a peaceful resolution. But we must remember that Iran is also watching. The Ayatollah is looking to see if the U.S. is willing to stand up against those who gas their own people. Will they really stand up then against the plan to build nuclear weapons?

We need to stand with the President and send a message to the world that we mean what we say: that we won't allow Assad to keep gassing his own people and that we won't allow Iran to develop a nuclear weapon.

UNIVERSAL LITTLE LEAGUE

(Mr. FARENTHOLD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to honor, today, a group of hometown heroes from Corpus Christi, Texas, the Corpus Christi Universal Little League team.

Universal made it to the Little League World Series this year in Williamsport, Pennsylvania, after they won the Southwest Regional Tournament. These young men showcased their talents on an international stage, defeating teams from Australia and Canada.

They received a grand welcome back to Corpus Christi along Shoreline Boulevard with a parade, where my district director, Bob Haueter, presented them with a flag flown over the United States Capitol and a letter of congratulations from me. They are an inspiration to young men and women throughout Texas and America.

This summer they saw and demonstrated that hard work pays off. It's a feeling I know they will carry with them for many years to come.

Way to go, Universal.

SEQUESTER

(Mr. TONKO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, it has been more than 5 weeks since the House recessed for a district work period and all of our problems that we put on hold remain right here in front of us. This long list of challenges includes repealing the sequester.

According to the nonpartisan CBO, sequestration will cost us about 750,000 jobs this year alone. Now is the time to act. Instead of messaging bills or playing procedural games in an attempt to repeal or defund the Affordable Care Act, we should be addressing unfinished business.

Americans have sent us here to do a job: help put people back to work and grow our economy. I encourage House Republicans to work with Democrats

to roll back these mindless, thoughtless sequester cuts. They are the worst way to save a bad program and the most foolish way to cut a good and vibrant one.

STOP OBAMACARE

(Mr. STUTZMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STUTZMAN. Mr. Speaker, hard-working Americans have called on Congress to stop ObamaCare. While they expect that Washington elites will deride their message and disparage their cause, they are here because they understand the consequences of ObamaCare's oppressive mandates.

Back home, over the month of August, I heard from parents who pay higher premiums only to have health coverage dropped for their spouse. I have talked with Hoosiers who make ends meet with two part-time jobs after their hours were cut. I have seen the discouragement of neighbors who hope this is finally the week they will find work.

Americans know that this isn't what a recovery looks like, but they wonder if Washington even cares. President Obama told them to trust the bureaucrats, the same bureaucrats who gave carve-outs to Big Business and kickbacks to Big Government. Republicans told them we had a different plan. We promised to stop ObamaCare and put patients ahead of politics. As ObamaCare's October 1 deadline approaches, those families wonder if we really mean it.

Mr. Speaker, now is the time to keep that promise. Now, when it really matters, we must stop ObamaCare.

HONOR SYSTEM

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, because of ObamaCare, health insurance costs could be increasing more than 80 percent for young North Carolinians. Yes, those who pay just over \$100 a month now may have to pay \$185 for ObamaCare-approved coverage.

The administration has attempted to console us with promises that the blow of such sharp cost increases will be softened for the neediest Americans through income-based taxpayer subsidies. However, there's a problem: it's not just needy Americans who will have access. Because the Obama administration has decided to rely on an "honor system" for subsidy distribution to draw money, income won't have to be verified, and neither will one's access to "affordable" employer-provided health coverage.

We are told this honor system will be temporary, but we are not satisfied. Develop a verification system now or delay the subsidies. Better yet, give every American a break and repeal this law.

"NEW NORMAL"/VERIFICATION BILL I

(Mr. NEUGEBAUER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, last week we learned even more distressing news about our economy: the labor force participation rate is the lowest since 1979, during Jimmy Carter's Presidency.

We refuse to settle for a "new normal." Americans deserve better. And how do the President and Democrats in Congress plan to make things better? Well, they still insist on the full implementation of ObamaCare, which its own authors already describe as a "train wreck."

But the House is working to dismantle this unworkable law, and we're taking another major step this week. We are introducing legislation that will prevent waste, fraud, and abuse in the distribution of ObamaCare subsidies.

House Republicans will continue to work to protect Americans from the harmful effects of this law. It's all part of our plan to foster a strong economy and a more structured and secure future for all.

"NEW NORMAL" I

(Mr. WALBERG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I've spent the last few weeks back home listening to my constituents and hearing their stories of just how tough times are in the Obama economy. And what's the latest economic news? More of the same.

Another disappointing jobs report was issued by the Labor Department last week. We learned that far too many of our fellow Americans have simply given up looking for work—the labor force participation rate is at its lowest since 1979. Is this what Americans should come to expect? Is this the "new normal"?

Americans deserve better than this mediocre economy. House Republicans remain committed to fostering a strong economy and more secure future. Our plan revolves around more jobs and expanding opportunity instead of stifling it. That's how we will get our economy back to work.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FORTENBERRY). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.